

REMARKS

Claims 1-73 have been subjected to a nine-way restriction requirement.

Applicants respectfully elect examination of the invention of Group VII, claims 54-64, drawn to shoes, with traverse with respect to Group I, claims 1-8 and Group IV, claims 25-41.

Groups I and VII are related as combination and subcombination. Restriction is not proper when the combination as claimed requires the particulars of the subcombination as claimed. On page 5, the Office Action states that the combination does not require the particulars of the subcombination because the shoes can be made using other hydroxyl-containing polymers. This is not so because both combination and subcombination require the same hydroxyl-functional copolymer having 10 mole percent or more of repeating units of the structure set out in claims 54 and 1.

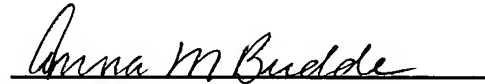
Groups IV and VII are related as combination and subcombination. Restriction is not proper when the combination as claimed requires the particulars of the subcombination as claimed. Again, all of the particulars of Group IV, including those relating the hydroxyl-functional copolymer, are included in the claims of Group VII.

For this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement between Groups VII and I be withdrawn and the restriction requirement between Groups VII and IV be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully request examination of the claims of the elected invention, the claims of Group VII. Applicants also respectfully request that the restriction between Group VII and Group I be withdrawn and that the restriction between Group VII and Group IV be withdrawn.

The Examiner is invited to telephone if it would be helpful to resolving any matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anna M. Budde", is written over a horizontal line.

Anna M. Budde
Registration No. 35,085

Mark A. Frentrup
Registration No. 41,026

June 23, 2005
Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600